WOMT Summary for 6/17/2008:

Reclamation and DWR's monitoring for the presence of larval or juvenile delta smelt that are less than 20 mm in length at the SWP and CVP export facilities was terminated on June 15. Judge Wanger's order for termination reads as follows: "Such monitoring shall end June 15 or a minimum of 5 consecutive days without detection of larval or juvenile Delta smelt at the CVP or SWP facilities, whichever comes last." Conditions for terminating larval sampling under Judge Wanger's Order have been met. As of June 15, larval or sub-twenty mm juvenile delta smelt had not been present in the monitoring for 11 days; the most recent detection was on June 4 at the CVP.

The Smelt Working Group recommended that the Projects maintain the 7-day average combined OMR flow more positive than -2,000 cfs unless: 1) average salvage over any two consecutive days reaches or exceeds 40 delta smelt per thousand acre feet (TAF) exported (ds/TAF), 2) average salvage over a three-day period reaches or exceeds 30 ds/TAF, or 3) the model-estimated daily OMR flow for any single day goes more negative than -2,500 cfs. If any of the above three conditions is met, then the Working Group recommends that the water export facilities immediately start operating to an OMR flow no more negative than -1,500 cfs. The Working Group would then meet to review any new data and discuss the recommendation. The SWG also recommended that the agricultural barriers' flapgates be kept open.

The USFWS determined that the following would be adequately protective of delta smelt until June 20th: The Projects shall continue operating to a 7-day running average Old & Middle River flow of -2,000 cfs unless: 1) average salvage over any two consecutive days reaches or exceeds 40 delta smelt per thousand acre feet (TAF) exported (ds/TAF), or 2) average salvage over a three-day period reaches or exceeds 30 ds/TAF. The USFWS determined that the OMR trigger was unnecessary. The USFWS also determined that the Projects shall keep the ag barriers' flapgates tied open.

The Projects do not anticipate operating very differently after June 20, once Judge Wanger's order ends.

Finally, the Projects intend to operate the barriers per the biological opinion.